3/3/73

Oswald-Psych.

I've read the pages of the transcript which you sent through Jim White, and I just have time for a few, off the cuff remarks.

The most striking impression at first is that this is really worthless drivel--dubious speculation based on false information. I presume the shrinks were briefed by the staff? The whole business of "threats" to the Pres is irrelevant, except in the context that the WC and the staff would be interested in it, since the evidence is only to the negative with respect to LHO threatening JFK, or any other President or VP.

Dr. Cameron inspires some respect for his comment on p. 8060. Whatever your views on his profession, at least he has put his role in the proper context and, it seems to me, divorced himself somewhat from these ridiculous proceedings. However, Dulles' comment which follows, "I am in agreement" is pure bullshit, because it was Dulles all along, probably others too, who pushed for an investigation of LHO's "motives" even before his involvement was investigated. I think this comes out explicitly in an exec session, either in late December or early Jan., and it continues.

Redlich's deviousness comes through in the central graph on p. 8063, where he suggests that, while it would weaken the Report to make blatent psychological hypothetical statements, the evidence can be presented in a circumstantial way which will lead the reader to a particular conclusion without having that conclusion explicitly stated--at least this is my reading of what he is saying here. The discussion which follows, I think, supports this interpretation.

The 2nd graph up from the bottom of p, 8068 is the most explicit Redlich gets, and this is a pretty damning statement, quite revealing of the zeal with which they went after LHO. What he is saying is that the Report should present such a sordid "factual" picture of LHO's life that, whatever psychological theory you embrace, it would seem credible that LHO could kill a Pres., but not as part of a conspiracy. Pretty far-out.

I think Redlich and Liebeler in these pages reveal an implicit understanding of how worthless psychiatry is as a science, but how important it could be as a public relations type thing. Redlich does point out that millions will read the report, and that there will be massive disagreements on psychological interpretations. Neither he nor Liebeler seems to want to get involved in the specifics of psychiatry, and they merely want to portray LHO in the report in such a way that no one could avoid seeing him as capable of assassination.

HR